

Pheasants of the genus *Lophura* in Bangka is *L. nobilis*—the same as the Bornean species. (Cf. Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. vol. xvii. p. 175.)

### 33. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses, 1897.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1897. 15de Aarsberetning on danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vid. Meddel. fra d. naturh. i Kbh. 1898, p. 431.]

Mr. Winge's report on the birds obtained and observed at the Danish lighthouses in 1897 is drawn up on the methodical plan adopted in former papers on this subject (cf. 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 624). In 1897, 611 specimens of 59 different species were forwarded from 30 lighthouses to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen. The report contains full particulars as to the dates and modes of their occurrence. The species most numerously represented at the lighthouses in 1897 were the Skylark, *Alauda arvensis* (over 300 examples), and the Song-Thrush, *Turdus musicus* (193 examples).

## XI.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—It may be of some interest to your readers to learn that a male of *Sasia everetti* was captured by my Dyak collector some weeks ago. As this example differs in some particulars from the figure and description of a specimen, which is probably a female, published in the Cat. B. M. vol. xviii. p. 559, I append a short account of it:—

Above olive, very dark on the crown; rump and scapulars tipped with orange-rufous; chin, malar region, nasal plumes, and throat orange-rufous; breast dusky olive, with a few orange-rufous feathers admixed, increased in number on the belly, where they almost entirely conceal the dusky olive wing- and tail-coverts, as in female. Total length (in millimetres) 80; culmen 11; wing 51; tarsus 13; toes—outer anterior 11, inner anterior 6, posterior 11·5.

That this is an adult specimen is proved by the fact that it was taken in its nest, where it was sitting on an egg. The egg is pure white. The nest was in a hole of a tree. I determined the sex of the specimen myself, and can vouch for its correctness.

Yours &c.,

R. SHELFORD.

*Curator of the Sarawak Museum.*

The Museum, Sarawak,  
July 27th, 1898.

SIRS,—Those readers of 'The Ibis' who were present at a recent Meeting of the Congress of Zoology, whereat the ornithological work of William Turner was produced, may care to further acquaint themselves, if they have not already done so, with that excellent man. The small octavo volume which creates an interest in him in every naturalist bears on its titlepage the following inscription:—

“ Avium | præcipv | arvm, quarvm | apvd Plinivm et Ari- |  
stotelem mentio est, brevis & | succineta historia. | Ex optimis  
quibusque scripto- | ribus contexta, scholio ullu | strata &  
aucta. | Adiectis nominibus Græcis, Germanicis & | Britan-  
nicis. | Per Dn. Guilielmum Turnerum, artium & Me- | dicinæ  
doctorem. | Colonix excudebat Ioan. Gymnicus, | Anno  
M.D.XLIIII [vol. unic., 8°, s. pp. n.]”

Starting at the titlepage and calling this number 1, the last printed page will be 157. The contents are disposed as follows:—The “Epistola nuncupatoria” occupies pp. 3–14, and is dated “Colonix 5. Idus Februarii, Anno M.D.XLIIII.” Pp. 15–146 are devoted to the regular text, the head-line of each page consisting of the words “de avibus.” This is followed by “Avium loci communes ex Aristotele,” pp. 147, 148; the “Peroratio ad lectorem,” pp. 149–153, dated “Colonix Calend. Martiis”; complimentary verses in Greek and Latin, pp. 154–156; and the twelve “Errata,” to which the last page is devoted. The volume is dedicated to Edward, Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VI.\*

\* For the privilege of examining a copy of this volume I am indebted to the kindness of Professor Alfred Newton.

William Turner, naturalist, physician, and divine, was born about the year 1500, at Morpeth, in Northumberland. He was educated under the patronage of Thomas Wentworth, and became a member, and afterwards a Fellow, of Pembroke Hall. He graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1529-30, and was admitted to deacon's orders about 1536. At Cambridge Turner early evinced an inclination to the study of plants, and complained bitterly that he "could learn never one Greke, neither Latin, nor English name, even amongst the physicians, of any herbe or tree." In the prosecution of this study he was led to an acquaintance with other departments of natural history, and his knowledge of the birds and fishes of this country was both intimate and exact. On quitting Cambridge Turner, "agrecably to the practice of many others, united the character of the divine with that of physician." He felt constrained to embrace the principles of the Reformers, and his zeal evoked the displeasure of Bishop Gardiner, who caused him to be thrown into prison. On being released he submitted to voluntary exile during the reign of Henry VIII., and resided at various towns in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. At Ferrara he received the degree of Doctor of Physic. At Zurich he met the celebrated Conrad Gesner, and between the two a warm friendship sprang up. From Cologne he issued his commentary upon the birds mentioned by Pliny and Aristotle, the title of which is printed above. In the same year he also caused to be printed the 'Dialogus de Avibus' of Gybertus Longolius or Longueil (*nat.* 1507, *ob.* 1543), physician to Hermann, Archbishop of Cologne, to whom Turner dedicated the work. On the accession of Edward VI. he returned to England and was appointed physician to the Lord Protector, and Dean of Wells. During the next reign he again resided abroad, but Elizabeth reinstated him in his preferments, and to her he dedicated the complete edition of his 'Herbal' in 1568, acknowledging with gratitude her favours in protecting him from manifold troubles.

Turner died at Crutched Friars on the 7th of July, 1568,

and was buried in the chancel of St. Olave's Church, Hart Street, where may be seen a monument erected to his memory by his widow.

Yours &c.,

W. RUSKIN BUTTERFIELD,

St. Leonard's-on-Sea,  
September 6th, 1898.

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SIRS,—May I point out that in the footnote to La Touche's paper on North-Formosa birds ('Ibis,' 1898, p. 356), you say of "Botel Tobago" "it appears to be what is called in Johnston's Royal Atlas 'Bashee Island' "? This is an error: Bashee Island is about 100 miles south of Botel Tobago. They are divided by the Bashee Channel, which I believe is deep water.

Next week I shall send off three collectors up the coast to Funing, and thence to Pucheng, in the extreme north of this province; from that place they will strike across to the mountains north of Kuatun, and return by the river. It will be a two-and-a-half months' business. In December I hope to go to Ching Feng again. In the spring I expect to send my men away for a long expedition, viz. down the coast to Swatow, thence by the "Hian" River to Ting Chow, and back by one of the south-westerly branches of the "Min." When this is done I think we shall have a very fair idea of the avifauna of Fohkien.

Yours &c.,

C. B. RICKETT.

Foo Chow,  
September 15th, 1898.

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SIRS,—It may interest our brethren of the B. O. U. to learn that a specimen of *Anthus richardi* was winged on Edderside Moss, near Allonby, on Oct. 10th, by Mr. Tom Williamson, who took it alive to his uncles, Messrs. Mann of Aigle Gill. I identified the specimen on the following day, when it appeared to be doing well; but it died from its gunshot-wound three days later. No other specimens of this large Pipit were seen until the 9th of November, when

Mr. Joseph Mann made a close scrutiny of a second and larger specimen, which was running on a field on the farm. While he was fetching his brother, Tom Mann, to shoot the strange bird, it made its escape. The brothers searched unsuccessfully for the Pipit; but, in a lower part of the same field, they discovered, and shot, the only Black Redstart (*Ruticilla titys*) that they have ever seen in life. On examining it, I found it to be an immature bird.

Yours &c.,

H. A. MACPHERSON.

Allonby Vicarage, Cumberland,  
November 14th, 1898.

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SIRS,—In the month of September of this year, on the Lake of Garda, was observed a conspicuous arrival of Skuas. They appeared in a flock of about 40 individuals, and, after having spent all the month on the waters of the Garda, they disappeared in the first days of last October. They frequented the coast along and opposite to Lugana, Bardolino, Tromba di Corno, Lazise, and Sermione. Count Fratta Pasini, who possesses a very nice castle near the smiling Lazise, told me that he met with them many times; they were very tame, noisy and cheerful; they approached very near the fishing-boats, so that it would have been a very easy thing to kill the whole flock. About ten specimens were taken; six of them are now in my collection, another in that of Prof. Garbini of Verona, the others were eaten (but not found good!). All were caught, except that of Mr. Garbini, by Count Fratta's wildfowl-shooter, Nicholas Azzale. He told me that if he had wished he could have killed the whole flock, because they flew so near his swivel-canoe that he could easily have shot several of them with a simple two-barrelled gun. But as he was ignorant of any interest which these birds offered to the naturalist, he killed only a few specimens, in order to show them to his master, Count Fratta. They generally flew slowly all the day upon the waters of the lake, and were rarely observed to rest. They fished continually, and pounced

upon small fishes, which they carried off, after making many cries like *haack*, *huack*, and slowly wheeling into the air.

In the stomach of five Skuas that have been examined were found remains of the following fishes—*Cottus gobio*, *Esox lucius*, and *Gobio fluviatilis*, and in two specimens also remains of worms; not a strange thing, because one knows that Seebohm noticed that some specimens obtained by him had been feeding upon beetles and cranberries, so that the food of this bird is very varied.

The specimens of which I am speaking all belong to *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linn.), or Buffon's Skua; they are young birds of the year, some of a nearly sooty brown, less dark on the underparts, lightly striated on the flanks and tail-coverts; some are, however, whitish towards the belly and vent. Regarding the shafts of the primaries, they have only the two outer ones on each side white and the others dark, while in the *S. crepidatus*, or Richardson's Skua, all the shafts are white-coloured; besides, as Col. Irby rightly observes, the nostrils of Buffon's Skua are nearer the frontal feathers than the tip of the bill, the contrary being the case in Richardson's Skua. Finally our specimens are less in stature and darker than Richardson's Skuas.

Regarding the geographical distribution of the *Stercorarii* in Italy, I can say that the species which more or less rarely occur in our region are four, viz.:—

(a) *Stercorarius catarrhactes*, or Great Skua, which is the rarest, only one specimen being known, which is preserved in the Museum of Florence, obtained in the Province of Verona, October 1882.

(b) *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*, or Pomatorhine Skua, which is uncommon; though widely distributed in Italy; it is generally killed in summer and autumn, less frequently in winter, and the specimens are usually young. I have in my collection two young and an adult female.

(c) *Stercorarius crepidatus*, or Richardson's Skua, a rare species, perhaps rarer than *S. pomatorhinus* and *S. parasiticus*; however, it has been killed in many parts of Italy and in every season, but, if my information is right, in the

colder months only. I have four specimens in my collection, of which two are adults.

(d) *Stercorarius parasiticus*, or Buffon's Skua, more rare than *S. pomatorhinus* and less so than the preceding, with which, I think, it is easily confounded. It occurs in autumn and winter. I have eight specimens in my collection, all young ones, killed from September to December; and with the exception of an adult preserved in the Rizza Collection at Siracusa, in Sicily, no adult specimen has occurred in Italy. /

According to my belief, all the species of *Stercorarius* are stragglers and rare in Italy.

Yours &c.,

E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI.

Ca' Oddo (Monselice-Padova),  
November 12th, 1898.

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SIRS,—In 1893 I received from Mr. Patrick Cullen, Master of the Blackwater Bank Lightship, county Wexford, the leg and wing of a bird killed by striking the lantern on the night of the 16th of August. The wing had a close superficial resemblance to that of an immature Wheatear, though the remarkably thick and scutellated tarsus was totally unlike a Wheatear's. The leg and wing remained in my collection until, in the course of preparing the Migration Report for 1893, it became necessary to set the question beyond doubt. I then sent the leg and wing for identification to Mr. Howard Saunders, who recognized them as belonging to the Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius pomeranus*, and returned them to me, at the same time remarking the strong superficial resemblance of the wing to that of a young Wheatear. He also sent to me for comparison a young male from his collection, obtained at Seville on July 9th, 1869, and the wings and legs of the two agree exactly.

This is the only known instance of the occurrence of the Woodchat in Ireland; and, having regard to the distribution of the species in Europe, its occurrence at an Irish lightship at the commencement of the autumnal migration is abnormal.

*Lanius pomeranus* is the sixth species which has earned a place in the Irish list by striking the lantern of one of our light-stations, and it is perhaps worthy of note that all six have occurred only at lightships or island-stations situated at distances of from six to nine miles off-shore. The Tearaght Rock, nine miles west of Kerry, has contributed *Sylvia curruca* and *Phylloscopus superciliosus*; the Fastnet, eight miles south of Cork, *Calcarius lapponicus*; Blackrock, co. Mayo, nine miles from shore, *Alauda brachydactyla*; Arklow South Lightship, seven miles east of Wexford, *Muscicapa parva* (of which three additional specimens have since been obtained, all at island-stations or lightships); and Blackwater Bank Lightship, six miles distant from the same county, has yielded *Lanius pomeranus*. All these birds have occurred during the autumn migration, and nearly all in October.

To these six may be added two species of which specimens have been shot by lighthouse-keepers:—The Antarctic Sheath-bill, *Chionis alba*, at Carlingford, and several specimens of a Mealy Redpoll from the Tearaght Rock, named by Dr. Sharpe *Linota rostrata*.

Yours &c.,

RICHARD M. BARRINGTON.

Fassaroe, Bray,  
November 25th, 1898.

SIRS,—With reference to the remarks by Mr. H. J. Pearson and Mr. H. L. Popham on the northern range of *Motacilla alba* and *Falco aesalon*, will you allow me to say that in the 'Zoologist' for 1896 (pp. 448, 452) I have recorded meeting with White Wagtails on Tromsö, and Merlins on the opposite mainland, in June of that year? Both species were breeding. I saw a Merlin sitting on her nest (an old Crow's nest, I believe) in a birch-tree in the Tromsdal, and a pair of White Wagtails on Tromsö were in a state of great excitement and were carrying food. I could not, however, attempt to find the nest, as it was evidently somewhere in private grounds close to a dwelling-house.

Yours &c.,

O. V. APLIN.

Bloxham, Oxon,  
Nov. 26th 1898.

SIRS,—On the 28th November I obtained a specimen of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) at Bloxham. The weather had for some days been very inclement, with strong winds from S.E., and five inches of snow on the ground on the 23rd. The bird looked very miserable and dejected, and would not, I think, have survived a spell of severe frost. When I first saw it, it was feeding on the watery berries of the asparagus, which are almost, if not entirely, untouched by our native birds. After flying into a shrubbery, it returned to the asparagus. The bird-stuffer who preserved the bird sent me the contents of its stomach, which consisted of merely the seeds and the remains of a few of these berries. Its weight was barely one ounce. It proved to be a male (bird-stuffer's report), and is in immature plumage; the under parts are of a plain greyish tint, suffused on the breast and lower belly with buff, and the characteristic crescentic markings of the adult are wanting. The bright edges of the wing-coverts are, however, conspicuous; the flanks are obscurely barred; the under tail-coverts have dark centres; the rump is slightly barred, and the sides of the neck obscurely so. The general colour of the upper parts is ash-grey. It may be worth while stating that, when seen at a little distance in life, the Barred Warbler looks like a plain grey-coloured bird. Its flight is heavy, and the wings in flight are somewhat depressed. This specimen measured 6·7 inches in total length; wing 3·4 inches. Pupil large; iris rather narrow, of a pale clay-brown; bill pale horn-colour, darker and browner at the tip and along the culmen; tarsi and toes strong, of a light lead-grey colour.

This specimen (the sixteenth procured in these islands) has some claim to especial interest. The original British-killed example, procured at Cambridge many years ago, and the bird now recorded, are the only specimens which have been obtained in one of our inland counties, and the present bird had wandered further inland than any of the other Barred Warblers which have straggled to our shores. Of the sixteen recorded British examples, five have been procured in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, five in Norfolk, two in Scotland, two in

Ireland, one in Cambridgeshire, and one in Oxon. The last mentioned also occurred fifteen days later in the autumn than any of the others. Of the fifteen (*i. e.* leaving out the Cambridgeshire bird), the exact date of the capture of which is known, four have occurred in August, eight in September, one in October, and two in November.

Yours &c.,

O. V. APLIN.

Bloxham, Oxon,  
30th November, 1898.

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*The Bird-Collections of the British Museum.*—We extract from the Parliamentary Report on the British Museum for 1897–8, which was issued last autumn, the principal portions relating to the National Collection of Birds. The report informs us that the total number of additions to the group of Aves in 1897–8 was 12,783, of which the following are specially mentioned :—Twenty-two birds from the Shan States, presented by Major Rippon. A skeleton of *Pelecanus crispus*, presented by the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A specimen of Peale's Peregrine Falcon (*Falco pealii*) from the Aleutian Islands, and of the Seychelles Scops Owl (*Gymnosops insularis*), from the Seychelles, presented by Capt. Ashburnham, 60th Rifles. 35 skins and eggs of birds from Spitsbergen, presented by A. Trevor-Battye, Esq. Nests with pairs of birds of the following species :—*Dicæum cinereigulare*, *Eudrepanis pulcherrima*, and *Rhipidura cyaniceps*, from the Philippine Islands, presented by John Whitehead, Esq. 25 Ducks and Geese from Waleheren, Holland, presented by T. M. Pike and W. L. Popham, Esqrs. 31 birds from Mozambique, presented by W. A. Churchill, Esq. 24 specimens of Eulent Swifts (*Collocalia*), with their nests and eggs, presented by C. Hose, Esq. Three Willow-Grouse from Unalaska, presented by Prof. D'Arcy Thompson, C.B. Ten types of new species from Uganda and Kikuyu, presented by F. J. Jackson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner of Uganda. Two specimens of *Paramythia montium*, De Vis, and a specimen of *Daphænositta miranda*, De Vis, from South-eastern

New Guinea, presented by Sir William Macgregor, K.C.M.G., Governor of British New Guinea. Skeletons of birds from Dr. Forsyth Major's expedition to Madagascar, presented by the Royal Society. 586 specimens of birds from the Philippine Islands, collected by Mr. John Whitehead, containing 67 types of new species and examples of 68 species new to the collection, presented by the subscribers to the Whitehead Expedition. 29 specimens from Lagos, presented by Major Ewart. 116 specimens of Herons, Wading-birds, Goatsuckers, and Birds of Prey, including the types of the new genus of Eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and of the Small-billed Frog-mouth (*Batrachostomus micro-rhynchus*), collected by Mr. John Whitehead, purchased. A specimen of a new Siberian Goose (*Anser neglectus*, Sushkin), presented by Professor M. Menzbier. 378 specimens of birds from North Nyasa-land, collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, including the types of two new species (*Bessonornis modesta* and *Cisticola nigriloris*), presented by Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B. 157 specimens, mostly Humming-birds, from Ecuador, presented by L. Söderström. 224 specimens of birds and 565 eggs from the Argentine Republic (including the type of *Hapalocercus hollandi*), collected by Mr. Arthur H. Holland, purchased. 14 birds received in exchange from the Hon. Walter Rothschild, including examples of seven species new to the collection. 18 birds, presented by J. Davidson, Esq., from Aden, collected by the late Lieut. H. E. Barnes. The types of Williams's Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus williamsi*) from the Chin Hills, presented by Capt. F. T. Williams. 117 birds from Northern Norway, collected by Mr. Nicolai Hanson, purchased. 17 specimens of birds from the Cape Verde Islands, including the types of *Spizocorys razæ* and *Puffinus mariae*, presented by Boyd Alexander, Esq. 26 specimens from the Loria collection, including examples of nine species new to the British Museum, purchased. 72 skins of birds from Siam, collected by Stanley S. Flower, Esq., Director of the Royal Siamese Museum, Bangkok, received in exchange. 3 specimens of birds from the Eastern Soudan, including the

type of *Ammoperdix cholmleyi*, presented by A. J. Cholmley, Esq. A specimen of *Idiopsar brachyurus*, an aberrant genus of Finches from Bolivia, and 6 Parrots from German New Guinea, presented by Graf von Berlepsch. 81 specimens of birds from the Sandwich Islands, including specimens of 3 species new to the collection, presented by the Joint Committee of the Royal Society and British Association. 136 birds from the islands of Lombok and Savu, collected by Mr. Everett, containing examples of six species new to the collection, purchased. 47 birds from the province of Foochow, China, including the type of *Yuhina pallida*, presented by C. B. Rickett and J. La Touche, Esqrs. 135 specimens from Northern Celebes, collected by Charles Hose, Esq., including the type of *Dicaeum hosii*, and examples of 8 species new to the collection, purchased. 34 specimens from Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, collected by Mr. C. W. Andrews, presented by Dr. John Murray, F.R.S.; and 72 eggs of Philippine birds collected by Mr. John Whitehead, purchased.

The Report also specially mentions the receipt of a fine collection of birds from Gilgit, consisting of 3386 skins referable to about 250 species, presented by Col. John Biddulph, and of a series of valuable specimens of Natural History, including many birds, collected in British East Africa, and presented by Mr. S. L. Hinde, Resident Medical Officer at Machako's.

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*The Diving-habits of the Young Hoatzin.*—In 'The Ibis' for 1890, p. 327, in a paper on the habits of the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus cristatus*), the writer made a casual note on the peculiar diving-power of a young nestling which had fallen, or had been shaken, into the water. At each attempt to seize it, the little bird had dived and swum away rapidly by means of its legs and featherless wings, the latter being used as a sort of flippers; and it being impossible to trace its course in the very dark and dirty water of the Lower Berbice river where the incident took place, the little creature eventually succeeded in getting out of reach or pursuit

among the spiny growth of the Bunduri Pimpler (*Drepanocarpus lunatus*), which the birds chiefly frequent. The incident was the more curious in that the Hoatzin is never seen on the ground or in the water, and the nestlings cling on so tightly and strongly to the branches and twigs, by means of their feet, wings, and beak, that it is hardly possible that they can ever fall off. Even when the attempt is made to knock them down, it is by no means an easy task among the closely-crowded and interlacing twigs and branches.

In ornithological circles this matter seems to have excited a considerable amount of interest, if not of doubt, and the writer has taken steps on every possible occasion since, wherever the nestlings were met with, to verify the incident, the first time accompanied by Mr. C. A. Lloyd, with whose name the readers of 'Timehri' are quite familiar. On every occasion the experiment has had the same termination, nor has it ever been possible, without special appliances, to secure the little bird alive and uninjured after it has once been shaken down into the dark water. The diving is rapid and clean, and the distance dived often several yards, sometimes with the current and sometimes against it. If left alone, the little bird either floats on the water or hooks itself up on to some twig, and perches like a Kingfisher, immediately plunging off like a Darter when closely approached. If the water were clear, it would no doubt be easy to trace its course and secure it as it rises, but under the conditions where it lives the little creature is secure.

That this power or habit is due to some instructive survival from an earlier mode of life in past ages of development can hardly be doubted.—J. J. QUELCH in 'Timehri,' n. s. xii. p. 37 (1898).

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*Sales of Gould's Bird-books.*—The occasions on which an original subscriber's copy of the complete set of John Gould's ornithological works comes under the hammer are exceedingly rare. Last week, however, says 'The Athenæum,' such a series occurred at the sale of the library of the late

Edmund Coulturst, of Streatham Lodge, Lower Streatham. Of the forty-four volumes, thirty-six were bound in green morocco, and the remainder were in parts. The series comprised the following:—‘Birds of Australia’ and supplement; ‘Birds of Europe’; ‘Birds of Great Britain’; ‘Mammals of Australia’; ‘Trochilidæ,’ or Humming-birds, with supplement; ‘Birds of the Himalayan Mountains’; monographs of the Odontophorinæ, or Partridges of America; of the Rhamphastidæ, or family of Toucans; of the Trogonidæ, or family of Trogons; and of the Macropodidæ, or Kangaroos; ‘Birds of Asia,’ and the ‘Birds of New Guinea.’ The prices of all these works at auction vary from time to time, but during the past two or three seasons a set of ordinary copies (that is to say, not of the original subscribers’ edition) have realized an aggregate of rather more than £373. The published price of a set, including second editions, is now about £670. Mr. Coulturst’s very fine set realized the total amount of £430.

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*Capture of a fourth Living Specimen of Notornis.*—All ornithologists will be interested to hear of the capture of another living example of *Notornis mantelli* (or, if we are to follow Dr. Meyer, *N. hochstetteri*) in New Zealand. This is only the fourth during a period of fifty years, so that it may be safely assumed that the species is verging on extinction. The first two specimens (obtained by Mr. Walter Mantell in 1848) are in the British Museum. The third specimen (captured by a party of rabbiters on Bare-patch Plain, near Lake Te Anau, thirty years later) is in the Royal Museum at Dresden. The fourth (a young female in beautiful glossy plumage) was killed by a dog on the western shore of Lake Te Anau in the early part of August last. It was immediately forwarded to Dunedin, and was most successfully mounted by Mr. Jennings, the taxidermist to the Otago Museum, the attitude being copied from the plate by Keulemans in Sir Walter Buller’s ‘Birds of New Zealand.’ The capture was effected in the most matter-of-fact way. As Mr. Ross (brother of the Milford Sound guide of that

name) was strolling along the shores of the lake, his dog bounded into the low scrub and came out again bearing a *Notornis*, having killed the bird with a sharp nip on the breast. As a specimen it was quite unharmed, and the skeleton (as well as the skin) has been carefully preserved. The incident has excited great interest in the colony, and Dr. Young of Invercargill, who has the custody of the bird, has received many offers for it. A day or two after the capture he was offered a hundred guineas for it; then an offer of two hundred guineas was cabled from London; following close upon this was an offer of £250, and finally a local offer of £300. The owners have decided not to sell at present, and if hereafter they should part with it the sale will be conditional on its not leaving the colony. A question was asked about it in the local Parliament, and the Premier announced that he was prepared to acquire it for the public. There is every probability, therefore, of the Colonial Museum becoming its final resting-place.—W. L. BULLER.

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*Proposed Memorial to Macgillivray.*—A Committee has been formed with the worthy object of erecting a Memorial at the grave of the well-known ornithologist William Macgillivray, formerly Professor of Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen, whose burial-place in New Calton Burying Ground, Edinburgh, is at present “not marked even by an ordinary tombstone.” It is also proposed to found a “Macgillivray Gold Medal” in the University of Aberdeen as a prize for students in Natural History. For these purposes it is estimated that a sum of £250 would be sufficient. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee is the Rev. Dr. Farquharson, Selkirk, N.B., to whom subscriptions may be sent, and from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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*The Generic Name of the Snow-Bunting.*—In order to please the advocates of stern priority, the generic name of the Snow-Bunting has been recently changed from *Plectrophanes* to *Plectrophenax*, because it has been shown by Dr. Stejneger

that the term *Plectrophanes* was originally based upon the Lapland Bunting, *Calcarius lapponicus*. Mr. Ridgway ('Auk,' xv. p. 324) now wishes to alter it again to *Passerina*, upon the plea that Vieillot assigned three types to that genus, and that, the two former of these having become types of other genera (*Cyanospiza* and *Dolichonyx*), the name *Passerina* must revert to the third type named by Vieillot, *i. e.* to *Emberiza nivalis*. We should rather hold that *Passerina* is void for ambiguity, and that it is better to use *Cyanospiza*, *Dolichonyx*, and *Plectrophenax* for its three component elements respectively. We do not quite agree to the doctrine of "elimination" as put into practice by our American friends.

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*The Egg of Pityriasis gymnocephala*.—In October 1895 Mr. G. Bartlett, the former curator of the Sarawak Museum, obtained a female specimen of this bird, the oviduct of which contained, ready for extrusion, an egg in rather a fragmentary condition; great care was taken in piecing the loose fragments together, with the result of producing a fairly presentable specimen.

The egg is pure white, irregularly and sparingly blotched with brown and slaty blue, the blotches being more numerous on the upper half and forming an irregular ring on the large end of the egg. Size (approximately)  $32 \times 23$  millim.

The eggs of the Laniidæ are not unlike that of *Pityriasis*, but in the absence of knowledge of the anatomy and nesting-habits of the bird it is hazardous to use oology as a means whereby to trace affinities. My own dissections of the bird, so far as they have gone, seem to show some affinities with *Eulabes*, but I hope to publish shortly a full account of its anatomy, and till then will defer all remarks on the subject.

Mr. C. Hose ('Ibis,' July 1893, p. 394) states that the nest of this species is made in natural hollows of trees, and he describes the egg as pale blue, but does so purely from memory, as he confesses; it is not impossible that he described the nest also from memory, but in any case further and fuller evidence is much needed.—R. SHELFORD.